

## EXCHANGE METHOD FOR EMBOLI CONTAINMENT

### Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The present invention provides a method for exchanging catheters while  
containing emboli within a blood vessel such as a saphenous vein graft, coronary  
artery, carotid artery, or other similar vessels. A guidewire is inserted through the  
vasculature of a patient until it reaches a desired treatment site. A therapy catheter  
is then inserted over the guidewire until the distal end of the therapy catheter reaches  
the treatment site. The guidewire has a distally mounted balloon which is inflated to  
occlude the blood vessel. Then, the therapy catheter provides means for treating the  
10 vessel at the treatment site. After treatment, the therapy catheter is removed from the  
guidewire and exchanged with an aspiration catheter which rides over the guidewire  
until the distal end of the aspiration catheter reaches the treatment site. The aspiration  
catheter applies negative pressure to remove any emboli formed by the treatment  
procedure.

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